district in Uttar Pradesh farmers have been suffering huge loss for the last three consecutive years due to fire. The Agriculture Minister has assured that he would enquire into it and adequate assistance would be given to the farmers for the next crop.

Therefore, the Union Government is requested to give adequate assistance to the farmers.

(xvi) Need to Expedite Drilling Operations for Oil in Sunderbans Areas, West Bengal

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : Sir, a news item appeared in the Daily Ajkal (Bengali) on 1.5.1997 that an American Organization, namely, "Energy and Geo-Science Institute" 3-man Committee led by David Hafab declared that no potential for drilling to search oil existed in the Sunderbans Area of West Bengal. The Oil and Natural Gas Commission, which had earlier failed in its attempts to locate oil, however, had now signed an agreement with the American Organization. Mr. David Hafab made an announcement that the American Institute would be conducting search for oil in nine delta areas in the world including the Sunderbans delta

As you are aware, Sunderbans is the most backward are a in the country. So, it is high time that the US experts are urged to undertake the drilling operations in the area without any loss of time, as any oil exploration will be a great boon for the Sunderbans.

(xvii) Need to take steps to Revive the Sick Fertiliser Units in Public Sector

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers to the fact that import of fertilizers, especially urea, in the year 1995-96 was 37 lakh tonne, i.e. Rs. 2700 crore and in the year 1996-97 it was 23.28 lakh tonnes, i.e. Rs. 2000 crore. The cost price of one ton of imported urea was 240 to 250 dollars, i.e. in Indian currency it would be round about Rs. 9000 crore totally. On the other hand, the Government is spending Rs. 7000 crore for the production of urea through Durgapur Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation of India. If the import price of Rs. 9000 per ton is given to the HFC, Durgapur, it would not be a loss making unit.

In the month of August 1995 the decision of the Cabinet was to revive six units, that is, Durgapur, Barauni, Namrup (H.F.C.), Sindri, Ramagundam and Talcher FCI with a revival package of Rs. 2200 crore. But, no decision has yet been taken. If the restructuring of the units are done, the production of fertilizer would be 23 lakhs tonnes at a time when about 20 to 30 lakh tonnes of fertilizer is still being imported.

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers is investing Rs. 635 crore to set up a new thermal power project in Rajasthan. KRIBHCO is investing in Mangalore Fertilizer and Chemicals which is a private sector whereas the Government is not ready to invest in public sector enterprises. It is not even ready to be a guarantor of operating agencies who are ready to invest. The Government is not ready to make them stand on their own feet. If it is so, the working class will fight against the Government until and unless they come out with flying colours.

So, I urge upon the Government to please look into the matter seriously. It should not be treated the working class as a slave. The working class are the pioneer to set up India as developed country.

(xiii) Need to Improve Telecom Services in Sourthern Assam, particulary in Karimganj

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj) : Rural telephones in southern Assam particularly in my constituency Karimganj (SC) are useless for all practical purposes. They remain dead even for local calls and STD/ISD are rare occasions. Local exchanges are not augmented and the setting up of new exchanges is yet to be taken up. The installation of microwave/UHF system in my constituency is yet to begin although approved long before. Karimganj should be made a "Telecom District" along with the creation of a post of "District Teleocm Manger". There should be provision of a ten channel UHF system as stable media from Dullabeherra to Karimganj to facilitate STD/ ISD.

So, I urge upon the Government to look into the matter and do the needful at an early date to facilitate rural telecommunications.

(xix) Need to lay standards for quality of Silver-wares.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA (Mumbai-South) : Sir, the Silver-wares and other items used on large scale in India. If there is the mark of 100 touch on the silver wares and the price is fixed for 100